United Nations S/2002/550

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 May 2002

Original: English

Letter dated 16 May 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Somalia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to you by Yusuf Hassan Ibrahim, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Transitional National Government of the Somali Republic (see annex).

As you can discern from the letter, the Government of Ethiopia continues to interfere in the national affairs of Somalia in violation of relevant Security Council resolutions and presidential statements reaffirming respect for the unity and territorial integrity of Somalia and the principle of non-interference in its internal affairs. The Ethiopian aggression against Somalia must be stopped.

I request that the present letter and its annex be distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ahmed Abdi **Hashi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Somali Republic to the United Nations

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Annex

Annex to the letter dated 16 May 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Somalia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I wish to bring to your kind attention the invasion by the Ethiopian military forces of the southern towns of Bulo Hawo and Garbaharey, Gedo Region, which took place on 15 May 2002, killing and wounding many people, including children and the elderly. The Ethiopians forced hundreds to flee to the Kenyan border town of Mandera. The invading forces entered the towns in personnel carriers, supported by tanks and artillery, and heavily shelled the towns. A considerable part of the towns has been destroyed and burned by Ethiopian bombardments.

The Ethiopian invaders also abducted the officer-in-charge of the town of Bulo Hawo, Colonel Abdirizak Isak Bihi. The fate of Colonel Abdirizak, who has been in Ethiopian captivity since yesterday, is still unclear. The Somali Government considers Ethiopia responsible for the safety and safe return of Colonel Abdirizak to Somalia and the international community is called upon to condemn this criminal act.

The Transitional National Government of Somalia calls upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Security Council, the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the European Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), as well as the international community in general to condemn this naked and unprovoked aggression against Somalia and the killing of innocent people.

The international community must not condone this arrogant behaviour of the Addis Ababa regime. Ethiopia must not be allowed to inflame a conflict in the region of the Horn of Africa by its irresponsible act.

The Transitional National Government and the people of Somalia appeal to the international community to call upon the Ethiopian authorities to stop its cross-border terrorism and to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of the Somali Republic and the violation of its national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Ethiopia must withdraw its forces, immediately, from Somali territories.

(*Signed*) Yusuf Hassan **Ibrahim**
Minister for Foreign Affairs